

But if, on reflection, they considered such a reason a good and sufficient one for postponing its execution, and which perhaps after all is the *raison* cause, they ought to have assigned it to the presence of the parties concerned, and by all of whom I have no doubt it would have been received with a great deal more satisfaction than the one they put forth.

It is but justice to state that the decision in this matter was the act only of a *portion* of the highway board, and had other members of it been present, perhaps quite a different one would have been the result; even as it was, there were some dissentients among them.—I remain, Sir, yours very faithfully,

SAMUEL FOX, Junr.,

The appointed surveyor to the proposed bridge, Morning-lane, Hackney, Nov. 27.

[There does not appear from the correspondence any valid reason for the non-performance of the work.—Ed.]

#### CHURCH-BUILDING INTELLIGENCE, &c.

**Enlargement of St. Mary's Church, Kirkdale.**—The original building was a plain structure in the Gothic style, of brick with stone mouldings, &c., and had accommodation for a congregation of about 360. This has been retained, and additions have been made at each extremity, without destroying the due proportions of the whole. Sixteen feet of length have been added to the east end, by which 266 sittings have been obtained; and an alteration of the west end gives 146 sittings more, so that the church will now accommodate about 1,372 persons. The light and ventilation have also been greatly increased, the latter by the interior of the roof (which was before flat) being carried, in hand-some Gothic wood and plaster work, above the principal beams, giving a greater interior elevation, and a readier means of escapement for the heated air, by means of two additional ventilators. The style of the additions is the "decorated Gothic," approaching, in some points, to the "floriated," though not so much so as, with the ornamental addenda to the original part of the structure, to destroy the harmony and consistency of the general pile.—*Liverpool Standard.*

**Nine New Churches.**—The Incorporated Society for the Building of Churches have lately voted grants towards increasing the church accommodation in seventeen parishes, including the erection of nine new churches. The society has recently received a donation from a lady of 1,000*l.*

**Bequest of 6,000*l.* for the purpose of Church Restoration.**—The gentleman alluded to as having bequeathed 6,000*l.* to the Camden Society is the late Mr. Maude, of Middlewood Hall, near Darfield, and nephew of John Maude, Esq., of Moor House, near Wakefield.—*Hull Packet.*

**CHIPPENHAM IMPROVEMENTS.**—A project is on foot for bringing a supply of water into the town of Chippenham, and to the railway station, from an extensive spring at Lneckshill, the property of the late J. E. A. Starkey, Esq., of Spyre-park; and in connection with an ornamental fountain in the centre of the old Market-place, to remove the hutchers' shambles, and several of the adjacent buildings. Two thousand pounds have been already raised for the former purpose, in shares of 10*l.* each, and several subscriptions are promised towards the accomplishment of the latter object. Mr. J. Provis has been appointed honorary secretary to the committee, and is the projector of the scheme.

**DISCOVERY OF A VAULT CATACOMB.**—The Austrian ambassador, M. Prokesch, and Professor Rooz, in exploring the island of Milos, have discovered a vault catacomb, containing at least a thousand tombs cut in the volcanic tuff. The walls of this subterranean cemetery are covered with Greek and Roman inscriptions of from the second to the sixth century. Most of the tombs themselves have been opened and are empty. This was done, no doubt, by the barbarians of the north, who in the middle ages destroyed so many Hellenic monuments, respecting the dwelling-places of the dead as little as those of the living.

#### Miscellaneous.

**THE STATE BED-ROOM AND FURNITURE AT BURLINGHOPE HOUSE.**—The bedstead is elevated upon a platform two steps from the floor, from which it is raised by a tripodal pedestal, upon which there are three lofty carved and gilt columns. Above these is a spacious dome, surmounted by the crest of the noble house of Cecil. In the centre of the cornice is the coronet of an earl in richly burnished gold. The hangings contain 250 yards of beautifully striped coral-coloured velvet, of British manufacture. These, together with the tester, head, &c., are lined with 900 yards of white satin; the whole interspersed with a variety of ornaments in gold. Deep silk fringe coral-coloured trimmings, tassels, &c., give a finished effect to the drapery attached to this superb and costly couch, which from the ground stands upwards of 20 feet in height. The ceiling of the room containing this gorgeous piece of furniture is magnificently painted. It is one of Verri's best works, and the subject it represents is, "Mars presenting Romulus to Jupiter to be deified." There are also in the same room sixteen other paintings by masters. The apartment is 23 feet 8 inches long, 23 feet wide, and 24 feet high. Three pieces of ancient tapestry adorn this room, each of which is 15 feet square.—The following are the subjects illustrated by them:—"Æolus, god of the winds," "Vulcan at his anvil," and "Neptune with his trident." Latin inscriptions are attached to each of these beautiful pieces of work. The state bed is one of the most gorgeous pieces of workmanship that can be imagined. Adjoining the above room is the state dressing-room, 21 feet long, 13 feet broad, and 16 feet high. This room, now completely renovated, was thoroughly fitted up in 1788, at a cost of 2,100*l.* The ceiling was painted by Verri, and around the apartment hang paintings by Rubens, Caracci, Poussin, and other masters. A superb suite of silver-gilt dressing plate, formerly belonging to William III., and a commode, variegated most richly with tortoise-shell ornaments, form a portion of the sumptuous fittings of this ante-room. Next to these, and upon the same floor, is the jewel-closet, a repository of the most rare and valuable articles.

**THE GREAT UTILITY OF THE COCOA-NUT TREE.**—Nearly all the domestic wants of the Singalese can be supplied by the cocoa-nut tree. He can build his house entirely of it. The walls and doors are made of cajans, the leaves platted; the roof is covered with the same; the beams, rafters, &c. are made of the trunk. He needs no nails, as he can use the coir-ripe made from the outside bark. If he wants a spout, he hollows the trunk split in two. It also supplies him with many of his household articles. He makes his oil from the kernel; the hard shell supplies him with spoons, and cups, and drinking-vessels, and lamps, and water-buckets; the refuse of the kernels, after the oil is expressed (called *panak*), serves for food for fowls and pigs; the milk from the kernel is used in his food. In short, if a man have a few cocoa-nut trees in his garden he will never starve. Arrack, a strong spirit, resembling whisky, is made from toddy, the juice of the flower, and brooms are made from the ribs (*irita*) of the leaflets.—*Recollections of Ceylon.*

**PROPOSED AVENUE FROM FARRINGTON-STREET TO CHANCERY.**—At a Court of Common Council, held on the 21st ultimo, Mr. John Dixon said, that having seen an advertisement in the papers, stating that the Fleet Prison was to be sold, he wished to know from the chairman of the London-bridge Approaches Committee whether there was any intention upon the part of the City of London to purchase the ground for the purposes of the great improvements which were in progress? when Mr. R. L. Jones said he certainly was of opinion that it would be extremely desirable that the purchase should be made by the corporation, with the view of forming an avenue through the ground into the heart of the City. He had called upon the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, and pressed the necessity of not making sale of the property until the corporation should have had an opportunity of taking the question into consideration and deciding upon it.

**THE COPPER TRADE.**—An article in the *Swansea Journal* directs attention to the great and increasing importance of the copper trade with India. It appears that in "the years 1835-6, 1836-7, and 1837-8, the importation of this article amounted on an average to the value of 2,575,000 rupees (257,500*l.*), but the last of these years had so heavy a proportion as to cause a glut in the market, which was felt to some extent in 1841, when the average of three years was 2,126,000 rupees, or 212,600*l.* The trade then recovered rapidly, the average of 1841-2 and 1842-3 being 3,243,000 rupees, and the proportion of the latter year amounting to no less than 42 lakhs, or 420,000*l.*" The writer goes on to observe, that as "the only use to which copper is as yet turned, is in manufacturing the domestic utensils of the Hindoos, who no sooner emerge from abject poverty, than they hasten to exchange their earthenware for dishes, and water-pots of brass," an increase in the demand for copper shews an improvement in the social condition of the natives, which opens further prospects for British commerce. The writer adds, "that the increase in the copper trade may be set down by some persons as the result of mere temporary speculation; but he adduces the increase in the trade carried on with America in the same article as a proof that our export may be set down as legitimate. We find that the export trade, from reference to the table of exports in metals, iron, and steel has shared in the prosperity which has attended every branch of our commerce in 1844. The excess of the exports in metals (including iron, steel, copper, brass, and tin) over those of 1843 amounts to 730,300*l.*"

**COMPLETION OF AN IMMENSE CHIMNEY AT LIVERPOOL.**—The large chimney at the works of Messrs. William Hill and Sons, manufacturing chemists, Vauxhall-road, is now completed, and is certainly the most lofty, and consequently the most prominent spiral erection in our town, forming, in fact, a conspicuous landmark from the river, as well as the opposite Cheshire shore for many miles round. Friday last was the "rearing day," when the apex of this huge and tapering shaft was surmounted by two British flags, which though large, appeared but the size of handkerchiefs. Throughout the day numbers of parties ascended in a bucket, hoisted by a winch in the interior, to the giddy top, whence they obtained a magnificent view of the town and neighbourhood of Cheshire, the sea to a vast extent, &c. They appeared to the spectators below to be no larger than dolls, popping their heads over the top or capital. The height of the shaft is 309 feet, being about 80 feet higher from the ground than the spire of St. George's Church, but springing from land apparently rather lower. It is of a perfectly conical form, and was regularly plumbled by rules as the work proceeded, and not, as is sometimes customary, merely by the eye of the workman. The summer season of three years has been employed in erecting it. It is 40 feet in diameter at the base (on a level with the ground), and 9 feet in diameter at the top, where there is an ornamental cornice and blocking. The first course of bricks in the foundation was seventeen yards in diameter.—*Liverpool Courier.*

**THE DUKK OF DEVONSHIRE'S PRIVATE ROOM AT CHATSWORTH.**—As this room is not shewn to the public, we will give our readers a brief description of it. It is richly furnished, and contains a fine whole-length portrait of his grace in his robes, by Hayter; a whole-length portrait of his grace's mother, the late Duchess of Devonshire, with her infant daughter, the present Countess of Carlisle, on her knee, is an excellent painting. The graceful turn of the head of the principal figure, the happy expression of contentment, the smiling face, and the uplifted out-spread hands of the infant, are exquisitely beautiful, and true to nature. This picture is entirely and essentially all that it professes to be—as another and child mutually delighting and delighted with each other; it is painted in a full and brilliant tone of colour, and altogether it may be classed amongst the best pictures of Sir Joshua Reynolds; an equestrian portrait of the present Emperor of Russia, and the late Emperor Alexander in a drowski. The furniture, ornaments, &c., of this apartment are of the most magnificent and costly description.—*Doncaster Gazette.*